

BRITISH EMPIRE

Ceylon—*contd.*

1883 TWENTY-FOUR CENTS

PLATE 4

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. Only a single copy is recorded without the 1885 surcharge (*q.v.*).

For comparison use the 1872 24c.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR { DL	<i>Greyish-purple-brown</i>	<i>Reddish-purple-brown</i>
{ MVL	<i>Dark grey-brown</i>	<i>Reddish-brown</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>Chalky-white</i>	<i>Pinkish</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Nearly as clear</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

(i) In the "C" of "CEYLON" there are two colourless spots, one in the centre and the other lying in the "saucer" of the lower part of the letter (Plate 4).

(ii) In the lower curve of the "S" of "POSTAGE" there is a colourless spot (Plate 4).

(iii) There are three colourless spots in the top corner of the triangular ornament in the lower left corner.

(iv) There is a colourless spot in the lower outer frame line immediately below the "R" of "FOUR."

*Note:* This stamp was prepared for use but not issued. The genuine stamp is only known unused.

1885 SURCHARGED "POSTAGE & REVENUE FIVE CENTS" PLATE 4

The 4 cents rosy-mauve and 24 cents purple-brown are described together. Sperati probably used genuine examples of the 4 cents carmine with the genuine surcharge, faded out the carmine and printed his reproductions of the 4 cents rosy-mauve and the 24 cents purple-brown over and through the genuine surcharge and cancellation which have been rendered porous.

For what it is worth, in the course of bleaching the paper

the surcharges lose depth and appear dull grey-black in comparison with the jet-black of the genuine.

Test the stamp and NOT THE SURCHARGE and there is no difficulty in identifying these reproductions but it should be remembered that 99% of the "FIVE CENTS" on 4 cents rosy-mauve that are seen are not Sperati reproductions but genuine stamps with forged surcharges.

1888-89 "2 CENTS" ON FOUR CENTS ROSY-MAUVE PLATE 4

Three of the different types of surcharges are known—  
"2 Cents" (without bar)  
"Two Cents"  
"2 Cents" (with bar)

The Sperati reproduction of the 1883 4 cents rosy-mauve

is printed over and through the genuine surcharge and cancellation which have been rendered porous, the genuine impression of the 4 cents carmine having been successfully removed.

TESTS: As 1883 4 cents (*q.v.*).

CYPRUS

PLATE 4

The following comments apply to all four denominations described.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper.

For comparison of the key-plate use any low value.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Yellowish toned</i>

The best test for all the Cyprus reproductions are the rough edges of the duty plate in comparison with the clean cut appearance of the genuine.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Cyprus—*contd.*

1894 FORTY-FIVE PIASTRES

PLATE 5

In the Sperati reference collection there is a photograph that suggests that he made an earlier reproduction of this stamp. In the head plate there is a constant flaw in the shading below the neck. The duty plate is that described under type A in the 1903 45 piastres (*q.v.*).

COLOUR DL: In the genuine the key plate is grey-purple and in the Sperati dark purple. Under MVL the genuine appears purple-brown and light bright blue and the Sperati blackish-purple on blue while the paper of the genuine is white and in the Sperati yellow on black. The impressions are almost equally clear.

BASIC TESTS: *B, F and G.*

(iii) There is a minute spot between the inner and outer frame lines in the bottom left corner.

SPECIFIC TESTS

CANCELLATIONS

- (i) The "P" of "PIASTRES" is apparently retouched and has a small serif at the top left.
- (ii) There is a small bump on the left frame line on a level with the eye.

Apparently genuine (see Chapter IV, page 28). The single copy examined has the "squared" circle of Limassol "B/FE 22/98."

1903 NINE PIASTRES

PLATE 5

The cliché is dated 15th August, 1913.

COLOUR: There is very little difference between the genuine and the Sperati.

PAPER DL: Unused examples of the Sperati are toned but the used are on white paper and both lack the surface impression of the genuine.

IMPRESSION: The Sperati is not so clear as the genuine.

BASIC TESTS: *B, D, E and G.*

(iv) There are at least three colourless spots in the "S" of "(CYPRUS)" (Plate 5).

(v) The back of "9" is flat instead of curved.

(vi) There is a nick in the octagonal background on the lower left diagonal side.

SPECIFIC TESTS

CANCELLATIONS

- (i) The left underside of the "C" of "CYPRUS" is defective.
- (ii) There are at least two colourless spots in the "R" of "CYPRUS" (Plate 5).
- (iii) There is a small nick in the left upright of the "U" of "CYPRUS" (Plate 5).

1. "Squared" circle containing "(LA)RNACA/A/MY 24/07/CYPRUS."

2. Circle containing "NICOSIA/C/OC20/././CYPRUS" (two types.)

3. Circle containing "TRO(ODOS)/B/JU26/05/CYP(RUS)."

Other "used" examples have apparently retained the genuine cancellations that belonged to the original impression.

1903 EIGHTEEN PIASTRES

PLATE 5

The cliché is dated 2nd January, 1911.

COLOUR: Sperati is grey-black in comparison with the black of the genuine.

PAPER: Genuine white but MVL greyish-toned. Sperati toned white, MVL white or buff (used).

IMPRESSION: The Sperati is not so clear as the genuine.

BASIC TESTS: *B, D, E and G.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

(i) There are constant colourless spots in the solid background around the three lowest white diamonds in the left and right frames. Other tests are not constant to each reproduction so it is certain that Sperati made more than one negative of the duty plate of this value.

(ii) (Only constant on one of the duty plates) there is a weak top to the "S" of "CYPRUS." (Plate 5).

CANCELLATIONS

See 9 piastres.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Cyprus—*contd.*

1903 FORTY-FIVE PIASTRES

PLATE 5

There are two different reproductions which are distinguished by (A) and (B) in the following description.

COLOUR: Genuine, dull purple and ultramarine, MVL grey-purple. Sperati (A) DL and MVL reddish-purple and dull blue. (B) DL as genuine, MVL dull purple.

PAPER: Genuine DL white, MVL slightly toned. Sperati DL (A) toned, (B) white, MVL (A) and (B) stained back and front.

IMPRESSION: Sperati (A) is rather rough but (B) is comparatively clear.

BASIC TESTS: *B, D, E and G.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) The right side and tail of the "R" in "CYPRUS" are weak (Plate 5).

- (ii) There is a defect in the top of the "S" of "CYPRUS" and colourless spots in the lower curve (Plate 5).  
 (iii) The "P" in "PIASTRES" has dropped and the "A" is the wrong shape.  
 (iv) There is a defect in the right end of the horizontal stroke of the "T" of "PIASTRES" and there is a spot of colour on top of the "R."

Reproduction B

- (v) The "P" of "PIASTRES" is apparently retouched and has a small serif at the top left (this suggests that it is the same duty plate as the 1894 45 piastres, *q. v.*).  
 (vi) There is a minute colourless spot between the Crown and the top of the head (Plate 5).  
 (vii) There is a white spot which varies in size in the upright of the "R" of "CYPRUS."

CANCELLATIONS

See 9 piastres.

DOMINICA

1887 ONE SHILLING

PLATE 5

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. For comparison of the key plate use any low value with Crown CC or Crown CA watermark.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
COLOUR	<i>Dull magenta</i>	<i>Less blue than the genuine</i>
COLOUR {	<i>Lilac</i>	<i>Maroon</i>
{ DL	<i>White</i>	<i>Toned</i>
{ MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>Greyish, stained on back</i>
PAPER {	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
{ DL	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
{ MVL	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Rather flat in comparison</i>
PERFORATION		
WATERMARK		
IMPRESSION		

BASIC TESTS: *B.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The top of the "S" of "SHILLING" is flat (Plate 5).  
 (ii) The lower stroke of the first "L" of "SHILLING" is cracked at the joint (Plate 00).  
 (iii) There is a defect at the top left of the "N" of "SHILLING."  
 (iv) There is a small defect at the end of the "G" of "SHILLING."  
 (v) There is a small break in the frame line above and between the "S" and "T" of "POSTAGE."

- (vi) There is a curved defect in the background between "C" and "A" of "DOMINICA."

*Note:* The colour is the obvious test if a genuine example is available for comparison. Sperati prepared (but may not have used) a second duty plate which may easily be told by test (vii)—the back of the "S" of "SHILLING" is vertical instead of curved.

CANCELLATIONS

1. "A07" in a transverse oval of bars.  
 2, 3. "A07" in an upright oval of bars (two different impressions).